

WGN Radio, February 21, 2008

(WGN-AM) - Suburban Congressmen Mark Kirk and Melissa Bean are applying some bipartisan pressure to state lawmakers.

They want the state to provide an additional \$1.7 billion in transportation funding, or risk losing out on over \$4 billion set aside for transit projects in the Chicago area.

Kirk, a north suburban Republican, said Illinois got a lot of money in the last transportation funding bill.

"If Illinois fails to put up a federal match, it will be to the benefit of Pennsylvania, California, New York, Florida, and hurt our local economy," Kirk said.

Kirk added Illinois had then-House Speaker Dennis Hastert go to bat for the state during negotiations for the last transit bill, which he said will not be the case the next time around.